

## CVR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Park City Peaks Hotel

August 22, 2007

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Michael Madsen  
Brian Miller  
Brent Scharman  
Rod Snow  
Louise Speth  
Karen Watkins  
Ron Gordon

Consuelo Alires  
Liz Bennis  
JoAnn Huber  
Gary Scheller  
Lori Radcliff  
Dana Thomas  
Patti Jensen

Chris Mitchell  
Connie Wettlaufer

Louise Speth convened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

1. **Minutes of the May 23, 2007 Board meeting were approved.**

2. Victim Services Grants

Ron Gordon/Chris Mitchell

Ron introduced Dr. Christine Mitchell, Director of Research for the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. Chris comes to CCJJ with over twenty years experience with the Department of Corrections. She will be heading the Commission's Rape in Utah study which is being funded through the CVR Other Victim Services grants. Due to the recent staff changes at CCJJ, Chris presented a Grant Change Request to the Board asking the Board to extend the grant to April 30, 2008. She gave a brief review of the past survey and explained some of the changes that will be made this time. It is important that the vast majority of the survey remain essentially the same to allow them to add the two sets of data together for a larger sample to gather reliable statements. Chris has received input from counseling and advocacy programs on what questions to include that would help providers improve services to victims. They will present the results of the survey to groups in many different forums. The published report will be placed on CCJJ's website for easy access by interested parties. **A motion was made and seconded to extend the rape study grant period to April 30, 2008. Motion passed. All in favor. None opposed.**

3. Introduce New Reparation Officer

Ron Gordon

Ron introduced Lori Radcliff who was recently promoted to the position of Reparation Officer. Lori has been an Accounting Technician with CVR for nearly four years and is excited to move into her new position.

4. Review of Claims (Closed Meeting)

**A motion was made by Louise Speth, seconded by Brent Scharman, to close the meeting for the review of claims. Motion passed. All in favor. None opposed.**

A. Claim Number 154351

Gary Scheller

Victim's attorney obtained a \$25,000 settlement from the offender's insurance company. The attorney has requested that CVR accept \$8,333 (1/3 of the settlement) as payment in full. CVR has paid to date \$40,458.52. Reparation Officer recommended reducing the subrogation lien by \$8,573.95 which is the amount of the attorney fees and costs and the payments the attorney made for crime-related medical costs. CVR would receive no less than \$16,426.05 from the \$25,000 settlement, the attorney would receive his payment, and the victim would still have access to the available balance on the claim. **A motion was made and seconded to reduce the lien by \$8,573.95. Motion passed. All in favor. None opposed.**

B. Claim Number 141770

Gary Scheller

A request was made to exceed the maximum \$500 travel award to enable the sister of the deceased victim to attend the sentencing of one of the offenders. The Reparation Officer recommended approval of an additional \$640.36 to cover travel expenses incurred by the sister for travel to the sentencing hearing in Cedar City. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the extension of travel expenses beyond the \$500 maximum. Motion passed. All in favor. None opposed.**

C. Claim Number 150391

JoAnn Huber

A request was received from the claimant's attorney asking CVR to reduce its lien of \$11,436 to \$2,250. After discussion, it was decided there was not enough complete information on outstanding medical bills that CVR might be able to consider payment on. **A motion was made and seconded to deny the request until the medical bills could be obtained. At that time the request could possibly be reconsidered after the medical information was reviewed. Motion passed. All in favor. None opposed.**

D. Claim Number 155299

Consuelo Alires

The victim lives in California but received medical treatment in Utah. The claimant has asked that the Board approve additional transportation costs beyond the \$500 maximum allowed to enable the victim to return to Utah for follow-up medical treatment. The Reparation Officer recommends increasing the travel award to \$3,500 to cover the current request and additional travel. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the request to extend the travel benefit beyond the maximum \$500. Motion passed. All in favor. None opposed.**

E. Claim Number 154208

JoAnn Huber

The victim suffered significant head trauma and is confined to a wheelchair. The claimant is requesting the Board consider an extension of the \$1,500 maximum Essential Personal Property award to enable them to purchase a wheelchair accessible van to transport the victim. The request is for \$17,500. The maximum award possible is \$25,000 for non-medical related expenses. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the request for funds to modify a van. Motion passed. All in favor. None opposed.**

**A motion was made to re-open the meeting. Motion passed. All in favor. None opposed.**

5. CVR Primer

Ron Gordon

Ron gave a PowerPoint presentation used for training purposes to provide a brief overview of the compensation program. Some of the topics covered were qualifying criteria, funding sources, available benefits, reasons for denial and a summary of benefits paid.

6. Crime Victim Reparation Fund FY2007 Report

Ron Gordon

Ron presented a report on the revenue and expenditures for FY2007. The Trust Fund reserve as of June 30, 2007 was \$6,938,261. The compensation program received 6730 applications of which 5316 were approved.

7. 2009 Victim Services Grant

Ron Gordon

The Board considered the availability of funding for Victim Services Grants for 2009. The Trust Fund balance and CCJJ funding were discussed in trying to determine if there was a sufficient reserve on hand to enable the Board to offer an RFP. There would be 2.5 million dollars more in the fund if CCJJ funding came from the General Fund and not the CVR Trust Fund. The Board decided to develop a list of study projects for both Victim Services Grants and reparation benefits. Some suggestions for study were hit and run accidents, elder abuse, restitution, maximum benefits, and post-trauma training related to crime victimization for mental health providers. Louise would like the outcome of projects funded by the Board to focus on improving services to victims by developing better practices to help victims of crime. Ron was asked to prepare a list of ideas for grants and reparation benefits to present at the next meeting. He will also prepare a list of possible areas where benefits could be reduced if needed. **A motion was made to make the training for mental health providers the next grant the Board authorizes. Motion seconded. All in favor. None opposed.** The Board will vote on whether there is a sufficient reserve to offer grants at the next meeting.

8. Restitution and Subrogation Ron Gordon  
Ron expressed a concern regarding the tracking of revenue received from restitution and subrogation. The current system is inadequate and a new method is needed to track these funds so that CVR can be certain that more funds are not received than were paid out. This may have to wait until the database is updated.
9. Medical Costs Update Ron Gordon  
Senator Bell is willing to sponsor a bill that would require service providers who accept payment from CVR to accept the amount paid as payment in full. If CVR then adopts a fee schedule for medical payments, the victim would not be held responsible for the balance on the bill. CVR is one of the few entities paying medical claims at 100%. Ron will continue to work on this issue.
10. Review of Statutes and Rules Ron Gordon/Gary Scheller  
The Board reviewed Administrative Rule R270-1-13, Awards. Ron explained that a recommendation had been made by Dianne Snow, Reparation Technician, to change the wording of the rule to bills shall be paid by the date of receipt. The current rule states bills shall be paid by date of service. After discussion it was decided to leave the rule as written. Dr. Madsen suggested a letter be sent to providers in cases where it appears the bills will exceed the maximum explaining why CVR is holding the bills.
11. CVR's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition Ron Gordon  
Crime Victim Reparations has been providing services to victims of crime for twenty years. The Board discussed ways to commemorate the occasion. Suggestions included putting a banner out in front of the CVR office building, putting a message on the back of state employee paychecks, and compiling a display of thank you notes received by staff. On a larger scale CVR could have a press conference and ask the Governor and a victim to participate. After the press conference a reception could be held for invited guests such as police chiefs, sheriffs and other allied agencies.

**The next meeting is scheduled to be held on November 14, 2007.**

The meeting was adjourned.